

3. The Examiner suggests that Kitahara's fine fluoropolymer powder could have been advantageously incorporated into Georlette's granular fire retardant to render the instant concentrate obvious.

Kitahara et al. teach that PTFE powders have extremely poor dispersability (lines 14-33 at column 1, lines 13-21 at column 2), corroborating the starting point of the instant invention, namely the observation that PTFE is difficult to evenly disperse within resins (paragraphs 0015, 0016, 0017). Kitahara et al. aims at mitigating the problem of low PTFE dispersability by manufacturing a very fine powder, having particles as small as 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$ . The instant invention solves the problem entirely differently, and achieves good homogeneity by mixing PTFE powder in a liquid phase of retardant, enabling to utilize any PTFE, typically comprising particles from 5 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$  (par. 0028), so obviating the need of special fine PTFE powder. The instant invention, thus does not rely on Kitahara's technique. Furthermore, the instant invention relies neither on Georlette, as said Georlette's granular composition is prepared by cold-compaction, whereas the instant technique homogenizes materials at high temperatures. Whereas Georlette compacts cold powder of preferably pure flame-retardants selected from brominated materials other than brominated epoxy (see Georlette's claim 6), the instant invention stirs a suspension based on molten brominated epoxy resins. As demonstrated in the attached Declaration, the cold-compaction cannot achieve the objects of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner combines two publications, neither one of which is utilized by the instant invention.

4. Georlette employs cold-compaction of a flame retardant substantially free of other materials during the compaction (claim 1) providing particles having a size of 2-4 mm. If compacting a powder of brominated epoxy resin with a powder of PTFE, a homogeneous mixture cannot be obtained, as demonstrated also in the attached declaration. The cold-compaction as described in Georlette can neither homogenize retardant and PTFE, nor prepare a bulk block of the two mixed components. Georlette's technique provides granular composition of 2-4 mm flame-retardant granules; Kitahara's technique provides a nanopowder of modified PTFE (claims 1-2); the instant invention provides a homogeneous concentrate in the form of a solidified block, for use in evenly dispersing the anti-dripping agent in a thermoplastic resin.

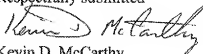
5. The cited techniques could not have inspired a skilled person to arrive at the instant invention, as defined in amended claim 1. Claim 1 and all claims dependent from claim 1 are now believed to be non-obvious over the cited documents.

6. Claims 37 and 38 are rejected as being unpatentable over Georlette et al. (US 4,849, 134) in view of Kitahara et al. (US 6,503,988), and further in view of Hatayama et al. (US 5,290,835). Since those claims are canceled, the rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

7. As it is believed that the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully addressed by the amendments, the Declaration and the above explanations, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" being more prominent and the last name "McCarthy" following in a similar style.

Kevin D. McCarthy

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